

March 11, 2020

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1139 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady,

We are writing to you to express our support for the H.R.6122 Tax Relief for Bridge Tolls Act, introduced by Congressman Max Rose, which would provide much needed relief to our constituents. As you may know, Staten Islanders must pay the highest tolls in the country in order to cross any of the four bridges which are connected to the borough. This has created undue economic hardship not only on individual commuters, but our small businesses and families. The tax credit created by The Tax Relief for Bridge Tolls Act would keep hard-earned money in the wallets of our constituents and into the local economy, as well as give small businesses the opportunity to fill jobs they could not previously fill due to the prohibitive costs of commuting into Staten Island.

This bill would allow a 50-cent tax credit for every dollar over \$1,000 that a commuter spends each year driving across the most expensive toll bridges in the United States, including the Bayonne Bridge, the Outerbridge Crossing, the Goethals Bridge, and the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge. Staten Islanders are forced to pay anywhere from \$1,430, to nearly \$2,000 yearly simply to get to their college classes, drive to work, or drop off their kids. Our constituents need this relief, and they simply can't afford to wait.

For years, we have fought back against toll hikes and secured discounts to soften the heavy economic costs the tolls have placed on the hardworking people who call Staten Island home. Congressman Rose's Tax Relief for Bridge Tolls Act could be another game changer for our constituents, and we urge you to move promptly towards passage.

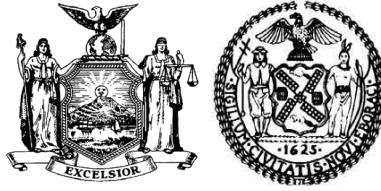
We thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James S. Oddo".

Borough President James Oddo

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Diane Savino".

NY State Senator Diane Savino



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Andrew Lanza'.

NY State Senator Andrew Lanza

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Michael Cusick'.

NY State Assemblyman Michael Cusick

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Michael Reilly, Jr.'.

NY State Assemblyman Michael Reilly, Jr.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Charles Fall'.

NY State Assemblyman Charles Fall

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Steven Matteo'.

NYC Councilman Steven Matteo

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Deborah Rose'.

NYC Councilwoman Deborah Rose

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Joseph Borelli'.

NYC Councilman Joseph Borelli